Kevin Adler phoned. THANK YOU!

Dear Peter,

Because the bottom line is I have no real choice and because of many interests I accept in advance your decisions on the states I've marked, the notes and in general, all except questions of fact.

I'd written you at greater length with specifics but the actualities of the situation would make asking you to read them a waste of your time.

My primary interest remains the fastest possible appearance of the book. If it is less than I'd hoped for, less than I tried to make it and I do believe a lot less than it would have been save for what I do not regard as normal ~~editi~~ editing, I accept that also.

In your evaluation of what I say you should know that of the many serious ailments I survive at 80, something that developed after my 1989 heart surgery, results in my systolic blood-pressure rising quite high from any excitement or disturbance. I think that, perhaps synergistically with some emotions, can influence my thinking, concentration, etc. And I did feel some rather strong emotions over some of the excisions and changes. The latter not infrequently appeared to serve no real need and did result in factual errors.

I believe that the editing did not consider the thrust of the book if that was perceived, perhaps is not sympathetic with that and the content, did in some instances have the effect of changing ~~it~~ both, is stereotypical where I believe that it not appropriate for a book of this kind, and least comprehensible to me in an obviously personal book eliminates most of what is personal, which happens to be what Richard singled out as what he liked, as did others. One of the effects is, I regret, somewhat sterilizing in a work of dedication and some passion for what it seeks to defend and ~~at the same time~~ also to the expose.

The editing, I think, intruded as constructive editing ought not.

What I hope but do not insist upon is that it will be reviewed not with the notion that all possible be cut out but rather with the idea that only what must be edited out ~~is~~ is.

There is, I think that much, the editor was not in key with or did not understand, this lack of understanding extending to my intentions and purposes.

Mine is a broad, inclusive and ~~intensive~~ deep book that proves one conspiracy and makes a prima facie case ~~or~~ for another conspiracy. Aside from the junk that ~~neither~~ does not prove conspiracies and invents impossible conspiracies, this is for the first time in the field assassination and that field is one of the major events of the century. There is what I regard as a ~~sure~~ systematic undermining of my making the case in various ways and involving many different people and forces. Because of the complexity of the information and its breadth and to help the reader focus, sometimes to prepare for what is next, I did encapsulate what I'd said. I think this is not abnormal, especially not in making a case, as lawyers make cases, too. I do not think that this is inappropriate in writing and in books of this general nature in particular. It was systematically excised. I do not think this kind of repetition is wrong or objectionable and I do think it helps the readers' comprehension while it helps make the case intended to be made.

If anticipated extra cost was a factor in this to me indiscriminating cutting, it is not in fact a factor because I began making a gesture to this end with Richard and offered him other assurances, or protections against extra costs. I repeat them now.

It probably was not in my mind then but I am willing to extend this to extra costs in rushing the book because of the importance of that to me and to the book and its prospects.

...I recognize that I have very deep feelings about this entire matter and what it has done to the nation and to us individually. I do not think my emotions corrupt the book or make it in any way unfair. But I do think that the editing often exceeds the bounds of normal editing as I say in a few typed notes and in the margins. I say it particularlar about what was done in the final chapter.

This gets back to the fear I expressed when you told me you would not be the editor.

It is possible that some of what I stet has justification for being excised, that from the strong emotions I felt more and more the more I got into the editing I was about unfair. If I had believe it I would not have done it. But it is possible and if I was in any way unfair I do apologize. But I do feel very strongly that essential as an editor is, the function of the editor is to edit and not be the author. Not at least without talking to the author. I ~~do not even know the editor's name and perhaps now that is best.~~

Perhaps incorrectly, I fear the editing did not improve the book and did undertake to make radical changes and minor changes in what it says.

Nonetheless, dear Peter and perhaps dear Richard, you have carte blanche.

First things first and for me first is the most expeditious appearance of the book.

Remember also that I have a file of all or just about all the once-secret documents I use. I think you should have a file of them for use when the book appears and, if there turns out to be some blank pages at the end, for use. I think it possible that there can be journalistic interest in some of them if not all. Were I a mere youth in my 60s I'd have an appendix. Cost and size are considerations, of course, but I think some of them in the book would work out fine. People love to see them. Perhaps one in a half-dozen of them?

If you can alert me to when there will be proofs that I'll read word-for-word I'll appreciate that so I can work to a convenient place in the new book for stopping and resuming with it. I do not handle interruptions as well as I once did!. ....

With our copier awaiting a part from Atlanta! and four service calls on the loaner that still does not make a decent copy I'd not mailed this and I am happy! Kevin Adler just called me, I like him, he told me he had the impression it was wanted to shorten the book and I told him to tell you that I assure you(pl) against loss if it is gone over and all that does not have to be cut out is restored. I do not believe that will be the case in any event. The Kennedy assassination and that of King cannot be equated in general interest. There is not much interest in King, particularly not that much by blacks. But anything on the JFK assassination sells and I have a rather large following. Which reminds me, I should have something to insert in my letters, saying something about NEVER AGAIN!

The edited manuscript should be with UPS by tomorrow (7/27) evening. When the Hood College vice president and dean of academic affairs heard months ago that I was working on the book she asked for a copy of the unedited ms because of the probability there would be cuts and for the archive they want the ms. I took it there this afternoon (7/26) with a box and a label addressed to you.

Is it OK if I write some people with known names to see if they'd read the proofs? People who if they say something can sell books? If so I can in odds and ends of time perhaps think of a few and write them.

If Kevin remembers and raises it with you, I told him I do not have to see anything unless there is a question of fact. I've told him that I do confabulate, often can't distinguish between what is on paper and isn't, and if it is agreed to restore what does not really have to be eliminated, I'm quite willing to leave that to your and him. I have to face the reality that there is no way of knowing how much time I have and I want to get back to the work in progress. I did not even use the notes I made for additions to AMEVER AGAIN!

This is a different subject. Long books are not a liability. I am selling more Post Mortems now than any other book and it is much longer than the 662 pages reflect.

I do feel so much better! Having spoken to Kevin!

I do know a bit about promoting and selling books and I do believe that if Richard considers the kind of short publisher's note I suggested it can make a real difference and can assert an appeal to reviewers, reporters, columnists, etc. Aside from which it will have human-interest appeal to readers-and will be true in addition!

This whole thing caused me unnecessary anguish that I now do not handle as well as I did before I accumulated all these illnesses and years. Simple communication would have prevent that and also important, my review of the editing would have been ever so much better and I also could have evaluated the importance of the stets.

I appreciate your phoning Adler very much. Thanks for it!

Best wishes,

Harold

Chapter 6 was replaced. If Krone did not send it I'll xerox my copy and send it to Adler unless I hear otherwise from you.

From our conversation I liked Kevin very much, as a person.

Some weekend soon he and his wife are coming up. We can give them many flowers for their home, not much more than an hour from here, if not less than that. (No plant.)

Without any obligation on anyone's part I may ask him to edit the book I'm working on and expect to be able to get back onto in a day or so.

Were our copier not broken, with a part not available closer than Atlanta, I'd have sent Wrone most of the first part, which is in draft, and the beginning of the second part.

When he comes I'll discuss it with him, the book and the possibility of his editing it that I'll pay for in the expectation that if published, the publisher will return that.

It is an entirely different book than I've ever written, again a personal, a much more personal book, because I paid attention to what Richard and others said about that.

I am confident that there is now a market for that and that the market may be even better after the flood of rubbish that will commercialize and exploit the coming anniversary. On that I'll appreciate everything you(pl) can send on the coming books. I may want to use some and I do want all I can get for archival purposes. The file I leave on the 25th anniversary, important for history, is about a foot thick.

I write you separately about the pictures as an aide memoire.

In addition to the photographs there is a xerox of a picture I use for a special reason. I'll send them all at one time. The xerox of ~~the~~ that picture rather than the picture I have has a special purpose. It may require the use of an offset camera to remove the photoengraving dots.

Some of the pictures are in New Zealand and as of this minute should be on their way back. This should include some I'd never printed, I also sent film.

At the time of the flap over the bullet fragments in Connally before he was buried I drafted a ~~lenbg~~ lengthy piece intended it for possible magazine use. I then had just assumed Richard would copublish with C & G and that they might see the possibicity of a legitimate book promotion in an edited, probably condesnsed version of that very rough and hasty draft. Which I had retyped almost immediately in the event there were such an interest. When several days passed and I'd heard nothing I sent a copy to a friend in Auckland. He is a historian and a history teacher and a writer specializing in military affairs. He showed it to a friend of his who edits a Sunday paper. She loved it and asked to see the pictures. I rushed them and she loved them even more. He cut the article to the length the paper could use and adapted it to that audience. It was to have been published this past Sunday. I should have a copy of what was published with the pictures. When I have those pictures I'm of the opinion I'll have a greater variety of them from which you can chose what you'd prefer. I think a few arrows of white paper pasted on may be a good idea on a couple.